

Application No.: 09/974710

Case No.: 55526US002

Remarks:

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-17, 19-22, 26-53, and 55-60 are pending. Claims 2, 9, 18, 23-25, 54, and 61-67 are canceled. Claims 36-52 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 6, 19, 22, 53, 56, and 57 are currently amended. Claims 3-5, 7, 10-17, 26, 29-35, and 55 are original. Claims 8, 20, 21, 27, 28, 58-60 are previously presented.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the article has a non-structured exposed surface that can be adhered to a target substrate. Support for this limitation may be found on page 8, lines 16-19. This amended claim 1 is believed to be patentable because, at the very least, WO99/58620 to Abe ("Abe"), WO 97/33946 to Hata ("Hata"), and JP 08-100155 to Tajima et al. ("Tajima") do not disclose such an article.

Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 25, and claim 25 has been canceled. This amended claim 22 is believed to be patentable because, at the very least, Hata does not disclose a tape having a peel strength within the range recited in combination with a thickness within the range recited.

Claim 53 has been amended to include the same limitation added to claim 1. This amended claim 53 is believed to be patentable because, at the very least, US 5,158,557 to Noreen et al. ("Noreen") does not disclose such an article.

Claim 56 has been amended so that, instead of being an independent claim, it is dependent from claim 1. This amended claim 56 is believed to be patentable because, at the very least, currently amended claim 1 is patentable.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 stands objected to as depending from claim 2 which was previously cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended so that it depends from claim 1.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 19 has been amended to change cap layer to backing.

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§ 102 Rejections

Claims 56-60 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 00/69985 to Mikami ("Mikami"). Claim 56 has been amended, thus rendering this rejection mute.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, 19-22 and 26-35 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe. Claims 1 and 22, the only independent claims rejected in view Abe, have been amended, thus rendering this rejection mute.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19-22, 25, 26 and 28-35 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hata. Independent claim 1 has been amended, and so the rejection with respect to claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19-21 and 28-35, is considered mute. Claim 22 has been amended (and is now equivalent to 25) and is believed to be patentable over Hata as previously described. Claim 25 has been canceled, and claim 26 is dependent on the currently amended claim 22, and thus the rejections with respect to these claims are rendered mute.

Claims 53 and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Noreen. Claim 53 has been amended, and claim 55 is dependent on claim 53. Thus, this rejection is rendered mute.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tajima. Claim 1, the only independent claim rejected in view Tajima, has been amended, thus rendering this rejection mute.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 19-22, 25, 26-35, 53, and 55-60 under 35 USC § 102 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 56-60 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata. Claim 56, the only independent claim rejected to over Hata, has been amended, thus rendering this rejection mute.

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Abe or Tajima. Both claims are dependent on claim 1, and since claim 1 is currently amended, this rejection is rendered mute.

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Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Tajima or Abe in view of Sher et al. (US 6,197,397). Claims 14-17 are dependent on claim 1, and since claim 1 has been amended, this rejection is rendered mute.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 10, 12, 14-17, and 56-60 under 35 USC § 103 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

4-28-06
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